



Urban District of Rothwell

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(A. L. TAYLOR, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.)

AND THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

(T. WILSON, Cert. S.I.B., A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,
A.M.I.P.C.)

1948

Rothwell Urban District Council.

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT.

STATISTICAL MEMORANDA FOR 1948.

Area in Acres	..	..	..	..	..	10,695
Resident Population (Mid-Year, 1948)	..	..				24,350
Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1948	..	..				7,154
Rateable Value to General Rate on 1st April, 1948	..					£108,264
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	..			£410

Births (Live)—

Legitimate :	218 Males, 206 Females	}	438
Illegitimate :	5 Males, 9 Females				

Stillbirths—

Legitimate :	4 Males, 8 Females	}	12
Illegitimate :	— Male, — Females				

Deaths—	116 Males, 117 Females	233
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Deaths of Infants under One Year—

Legitimate :	5 Males, 11 Females	}	17
Illegitimate :	1 Male, — Females				

Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated population)	..	18.5
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Still Births Rate (per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	26.6
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Death Rates (all per 1,000 estimated population)—

All Causes	9.6
Zymotic Diseases (seven principal)		0.04
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	..	..	..		0.45
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	..	..	..		0.08
Respiratory Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis of Respiratory System)	..	..	..	..	1.31
Cancer	..	..	..	..	1.44
Heart and Circulatory Diseases	..	..	..		2.79

Infant Mortality—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	38.8
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				37.73
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				71.42

Diarrhoea—(Deaths in Infants under 2 years of age
per 1,000 live births) 2.2


Maternal Mortality—(Deaths of Mothers in child-
birth per 1,000 live and stillbirths) nil
Puerperal Sepsis nil
Other Causes nil

RECORD OF DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS, 1948.

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Under 1 year	6	11	17
1—5 years	1	—	1
5—10 years	—	—	—
10—15 years	—	1	1
15—20 years	—	—	—
20—25 years	1	5	6
25—35 years	4	7	11
35—45 years	7	4	11
45—55 years	7	7	14
55—65 years	24	17	41
65—70 years	15	12	27
70—75 years	16	13	29
75—80 years	15	15	30
80—85 years	17	15	32
85—90 years	1	9	10
90 years and over	2	1	3
TOTALS	116	117	233

STAFF OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

A. L. TAYLOR, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.	<i>Medical Officer of Health Medical Officer, Maternity and Child Welfare Ser- vices</i>
T. WILSON, Cert. S.I.B., A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., A.M.I.P.C., Certified Meat Inspector, Certified Smoke Inspector	<i>Senior Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superin- tendent</i>
G. F. IDLE, Cert. S.I.B., A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. Certified Meat Inspector	<i>Additional Sanitary In- spector</i>
Miss M. CAMERON, State Registered Nurse, S.C.M., C.R.S.I.	<i>Superintendent Health Visitor</i>
Mrs. M. WOOD, State Registered Nurse, C.R.S.I., Part I. of Midwifery	<i>Health Visitor</i>
Miss H. FLOCKTON	<i>Clerk</i>
J. GOULDEN (commenced 8/10/48)	<i>Clerk</i>
Mrs. I. M. GIBSON	<i>Clerk (M. & C. W. Dept.)</i>



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Rothwell Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

1948.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Rothwell Urban District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1948.

On the whole, the Report may be considered satisfactory. Again, no case of Diphtheria occurred in the whole area, and, in general, infectious disease incidence remained at a very low level.

The Infantile Mortality Rate declined to 38 per thousand live births, and the Death Rate at 9.6 remained very low. A slight decline in the Birth Rate was not unexpected and is similar to that experienced throughout the country.

It is not possible to report any appreciable amelioration of the housing situation.

Stourton Day Nursery continues to subserve a most useful function, is consistently full, and has a long and growing waiting list.

Matters regarding Cleansing and Salvage are dealt with in the Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The outstanding event during the year was the coming into force of the National Health Service Act on July 5th, 1948. This removed from the control of the Rothwell Urban District Council the Maternity and Child Welfare Services on which so much pioneer work has been done in this area and of which we were so

justly proud. The natural disappointment occasioned by this transference is mitigated by the knowledge that an efficient, well-organised and well-equipped service remains in being, and its administration in all human essentials remains local. The Central Clinic continues to be used exactly as before, staffed by the same individuals, ably assisted by the same band of devoted and efficient voluntary workers. The work thus carries on unchecked and unchanged, and it is a source of personal pride that the admirable premises acquired with so much forethought in 1932 should continue to be so fully used and should have, indeed, their use extended and their scope widened. The establishment of the Divisional Health Office practically within the same curtilage makes a unit of administration which is proving a great boon and is greatly simplifying the day-to-day administration of Maternity and Child Welfare Services in the Rothwell area.

The physical wellbeing of infants and young children has been adequately maintained throughout the year, and no evidence is forthcoming to suggest that the high standards attained are likely to decline. It is now several years since I have seen a case of definite rickets, and this disease, with its accompaniment of bow legs, knock knees and general puny physique, is now a thing of the past. The Health Visiting Staff, with Miss Cameron still a tower of strength, was augmented during the year by the addition of Miss Rhodes and the appointment of an additional School Nurse. The establishment aimed at for the Rothwell Urban area, is one of five Health Visitors, who shall also undertake school duties, and this is the number at which I shall continue to aim.

The tables, showing the numbers of children in Clinic attendance, give a reasonably satisfactory picture and reflect well-maintained interest on the part of the mothers in the area.

Table 1.

**CLINIC ATTENDANCES IN AGE GROUPS SHOWING
AVERAGE WEEKLY ATTENDANCE AT FIVE CLINICS.**

Clinic	Under 1 year	1—2 years	2—5 years	Total	Average Weekly Attendance
Rothwell	2,381	748	418	3,547	73.9
Lofthouse	1,702	576	505	2,783	58.0
Stourton	585	185	63	833	34.7
Oulton	875	183	139	1,197	49.9
Methley	1,165	244	179	1,588	31.13
Total ..	6,708	1,936	1,304	9,948	247.6

Table 1a.

**INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN IN CLINIC ATTENDANCE
DURING 1948.**

Clinic	Under 1 year	1—2 years	2—5 years	Total
Rothwell	137	129	151	417
Lofthouse	75	100	135	310
Stourton	24	53	31	108
Oulton	52	53	57	162
Methley	63	66	76	205
Total	351	401	450	1,202

Table 1b.

NEW CLINIC ENTRANTS DURING 1948.

Clinic	Under 1 year	1—2 years	2—5 years	Total
Rothwell	156	6	9	171
Lofthouse	84	2	9	95
Stourton	32	3	1	36
Oulton	60	2	4	66
Methley	76	6	1	83
Total	408	19	24	451

Table 1c.

**NUMBER OF CHILDREN (BIRTH TO FIVE YEARS)
IN AREA 31st DECEMBER, 1948, WITH PROPORTION
OF CLINIC ATTENDERS.**

Age	No. of Children in Rothwell Area	No. of Children in Clinic Attendance	Percentage of Children in Clinic Attendance
Under 1 year	443	351	79.2
1—2 years	490	401	81.8
2—5 years	1,109	450	40.5

Table 2.

**MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS OF CHILDREN DURING
1948.**

Birth to 1 year	1—2 years	2—5 years	Total
1,268	351	272	1,891

The Sunray Clinic continues to give extremely useful service and the number of children using it shows a slight increase on 1947. This is a valuable service and one which I hope permanently to continue.

Table 3.
RECORD OF SUNRAY WORK DURING 1948.

No. of Sessions	No. of Treatments given	No. of individual Children treated				No. of Mothers treated	Total	Average Attendance per Session
		Under 1 year	1—2 years	2—5 years	School Children			
147	1,846	5	41	33	36	0	115	12.55

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The decline from 49.6 per thousand live births in 1947, to 38 in 1948 is a cause of satisfaction, but analysis of the figures must have a sobering influence on any tendency to undue jubilation. Of the total of 17 infantile deaths occurring during the year, no fewer than 8 were attributed to prematurity. In many cases, I agree, the infant was of such prematurity and small size that survival must be considered a matter of greatest hazard. During the year, one of the Midwives working in the area has attended a special course at the Sorrento Maternity Home, Birmingham, to acquire the latest knowledge and technique relating to the care of the premature baby. She is to help and advise throughout the area in all cases of premature babies born at home, and this, combined with the use of a new and special cot and apparatus, will, one hopes, reduce still further the infantile mortality due to this cause. I publish a table showing the causes of infant death, and this gives some idea of the difficulties which we are now reaching in reducing still further the list of infant mortality.

The services of a highly qualified Paediatrician are still available at a monthly Special Clinic and to him are referred any cases of doubt or difficulty found in the practice of local general practitioners, Clinic doctors or Health Visitors.

One illegitimate death occurred out of a total of 14 illegitimate births. Great care is taken to ensure that the circumstances of illegitimate infants are brought up to the highest possible standards, and the Health Visitors pay particular attention to the welfare of both mother and baby.

Table 4.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE ROTHWELL URBAN DISTRICT, 1948.

Cause of Death	M.	F.	Cause of Death	M.	F.
ALL CAUSES	116	117	28. Nephritis	—	3
			29. Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis ..	—	—
1. Typhoid & Para-typhoid Fevers ..	—	—	30. Other maternal causes	—	—
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever ..	—	1	31. Premature Birth ..	4	4
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—	32. Con. mal.; birth injury infant dis. ..	1	2
4. Whooping Cough.. ..	—	—	33. Suicide	2	—
5. Diphtheria	—	—	34. Road Traffic Accident	1	—
6. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	2	9	35. Other Violent Causes ..	1	1
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	1	36. All other Causes	10	10
8. Syphilitic Diseases ..	2	—	Deaths of Infants under one year :—		
9. Influenza	—	—	Total	6	11
10. Measles	—	—	Legitimate	5	11
11. Acute Poliomyelitis & Polioencephalitis ..	—	—	Illegitimate	1	—
12. Acute Infantile Encephalitis ..	—	—	Live Births :—		
13. Cancer of buc. cav: & oesoph (M) uterus (F)	1	—	Total	223	215
14. Cancer of Stomach & Duodenum	5	1	Legitimate	218	206
15. Cancer of Breast ..	—	6	Illegitimate	5	9
16. Cancer of all other sites	10	10	Still Births :—		
17. Diabetes	—	1	Total	4	8
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions	17	16	Legitimate	4	8
19. Heart Diseases	32	29	Illegitimate	—	—
20. Other Diseases of Circulatory System ..	3	4	Population .. 24,350		
21. Bronchitis	14	7			
22. Pneumonia	1	8			
23. Other Respiratory Diseases ..	2	—			
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	3	2			
25. Diarrhoea, under 2 years	—	1			
26. Appendicitis	—	—			
27. Other digestive diseases ..	3	—			

Table 5.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

Cause of Death	Under 1 wk.		1—2 wks.		2—3 wks.		3—4 wks.		4—5 mths.		6—9 mths.		10—12 mths.		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Prematurity	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4
Broncho-pneumonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	3
Gastro-enteritis ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Congenital malform- ation of heart ..	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Congenital morbus cordis. Congenital mitral stenosis ..	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Sub-dural haemorrh- age following in- strumental delivery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Meningococcal meningitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Marasmus																
Prematurity ..	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
	4	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	3	1	0	6	11

Table 6.

INFANT DEATHS PER THOUSAND LIVE BIRTHS.

1903-1912		1913-1922		1923-1932		1933-1942		1943-1948	
1903	171	1913	139	1923	82	1933	77.8	1943	42.2
1904	145	1914	120	1924	112	1934	50	1944	40.0
1905	161	1915	125	1925	72	1935	38	1945	51.7
1906	121	1916	85	1926	74.2	1936	57	1946	56.0
1907	140	1917	142	1927	65	1937	68	1947	49.6
1908	148	1918	84	1928	71.7	1938	65	1948	38.8
1909	112	1919	61	1929	89.3	1939	42.4		
1910	133	1920	83	1930	31	1940	43		
1911	116	1921	86	1931	72.2	1941	50.8		
1912	58	1922	90	1932	40.9	1942	37.2		
Average—	130.5	Average—	101.5	Average—	71.0	Average—	52.9	Average—	47.5

Table 7a.

**Details of
STILL-BIRTHS
for the past Five years.**

Year	No. of Live Births	No. of Still-births	Proportion of Still-births per 100 Live Births
1944	425	14	3.27
1945	367	10	2.72
1946	411	12	2.9
1947	484	19	3.9
1948	438	12	2.7

Table 7b.

**Details of
NEO-NATAL DEATHS
for the past Five years.**

Year	No. of Live Births	No. of Neo-Natal Deaths	Proportion of Neo-Natal Deaths per 100 Live Births
1944	425	17	4.00
1945	367	9	2.45
1946	411	16	3.9
1947	484	16	3.3
1948	438	10	2.3

During 1948, only one death occurred in the one to five age group. This was attributed to Acute Gastro-enteritis.

A set-back has been experienced in the elimination of Upper Respiratory conditions, particularly adenoids and enlarged tonsils. A hitch occurred relating to the employment of a part-time Specialist, and the ensuing long discussion with the Regional Hospital Board has not yet been concluded. As the waiting list for operation at Leeds General Infirmary is now said to necessitate a delay of between two and three years, it will readily be appreciated why I am so anxious that the service which we formerly enjoyed should be renewed at the earliest possible moment. I hope, in my next Report, to be able to indicate a satisfactory outcome to the present negotiations.

Day Nursery. Stourton Day Nursery has remained full to capacity throughout 1948, and the list of those awaiting admission has now reached 40. During the year, the emphasis on social needs has been increased and children are now admitted for home circumstances embracing all aspects of the family welfare. There has been no outbreak of infection at the Nursery and the standard of health has remained extremely high. This has been due in no small measure to the meticulous care which is given the children by the Matron and Staff, and by the careful daily check-up to detect incipient cases of possible illness.

In view of the great demand, I am making every effort to have the Nursery enlarged. Under present circumstances this will be difficult, but so great is the need that I feel justified in pressing the matter.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS AND MATERNAL WELFARE.

No maternal death occurred during the year, and there was no notification of Puerperal Pyrexia. This reflects a satisfactory state of affairs and is a matter for considerable gratification. A very large number of births occur in Maternity Homes, and in the majority of cases it has been possible to obtain Institutional accommodation where needed. It will be appreciated that all Maternity Homes and Hospitals passed over to the Regional Hospital Board on July 5th, 1948, and thus since that date the admission of cases has been at their discretion. At the same time, a bed bureau has been set up at County Hall and on submission of a form from the Clinic, setting out the special needs of the patient, sympathetic consideration has invariably been given and very few mothers seeking admission have been disappointed. It is to be hoped that the present arrangement will be allowed to continue.

Some diminution of attendance at Ante-Natal Clinics is likely to occur under the present regime, as more mothers are now booking their own family doctor to undertake their care during pregnancy and confinement. This state of affairs is good so long as the care received by the mothers is adequate, and the number of ante-natal examinations they receive is maintained at the needed intervals. It is too early yet to reach any conclusion and I hope to be able to comment further in subsequent Reports.

Our former Isolation Hospital has still not been converted to Maternity Home purposes, but a report that subsidence is now no longer taking place leads one to hope that satisfactory developments should soon follow.

Table 8.

DETAILS OF ATTENDANCES AT ANTE-NATAL CLINICS DURING 1948.

	Total No. of Expectant Mothers Attending		New Cases		No. of Sessions held	Average Attendance per Session	Gross total of Attendances
	New Cases	Old Cases	Primi-parae	Multi-parae			
Rothwell ..	234	101	88	146	106	16.45	1,744
Methley ..	22	11	7	15	24	4.79	115
Totals ..	256	112	95	159	130		1,859

Table 9.

**PERIOD OF PREGNANCY AT WHICH FIRST
ATTENDANCE (1948) TOOK PLACE.**

1st month	2nd month	3rd month	4th month	5th month	6th month	7th month	8th month	9th month	Not- Preg nant	Total
0	13	63	66	63	30	17	1	0	3	256

Table 10.

**ABNORMAL CONDITIONS ARISING IN CASES IN
ANTE-NATAL CLINIC ATTENDANCE.**

Instrumental Delivery 3	Abortion 1
Miscarriage 6	Premature Stillbirth 1
Premature Delivery 12	Medical Induction 1
Placenta Praevia (Stillbirth) .. 1	Placenta Praevia (partial) .. 1
Stillbirth 5	Breech Presentation—Stillbirth 1
Caesarian Section (Contracted Pelvis) 2	Albuminuria—Twin Delivery .. 1
Hypertension 2	Premature Delivery (mother advanced Tuberculosis) 1
Medical Induction for Albuminuria (Premature) 1	Stillbirth (mother Diabetic) .. 1
Breech Presentation — Post Partum Haemorrhage .. 1	Placenta Praevia—Ante-partum Haemorrhage 1
Twin Delivery—Pyelitis 1	Stillbirth—Twins 1
Post Partum Haemorrhage .. 1	

Table 11.

**CONFINEMENT ANALYSIS OF THE CASES IN
ANTE-NATAL CLINIC ATTENDANCE DURING 1948.**

Normal Deliveries 230 (Hospital 128, Home 102)	Left the area 6
Abnormal Deliveries 45 (Hospital 28, Home 17)	Due for delivery in 1949 85
	Not Pregnant 2
	Total 368

Table 12.

RECORD OF HOME VISITATION.

First Visits (under one year)	..	..	..	444
Re-visits (under one year)	..	..	..	1,839
One to five years	..	..	..	7,487
Ante-Natal First Visits	..	..	..	102
Ante-Natal Re-visits	..	..	..	70
Special Visits	..	..	..	13
Total Home Visits	..	..	..	<u>9,955</u>

Total Clinic Sessions held during 1948 :—

Infant Welfare	..	..	..	..	195
Ultra Violet Ray	..	..	..	..	147
Ante-Natal	..	..	..	..	132
Dental Sessions	..	..	..	..	—
*Consultative Ante-Natal Sessions	..	..	..	..	—
Consultative Infant Welfare Sessions	..	..	..	..	10
					<u>484</u>

*All cases now referred individually to Consultants at Hospitals.

Health Visitors. As previously mentioned, an increase of one has taken place in the Staff of Health Visitors. We are still, however, two short of requirements and I am making every effort to obtain the services of two suitable Visitors. In the meantime, the work done throughout the year has been of the highest standard and it must not be thought that the shortage of staff has seriously affected the quality of work. The only difficulty has been that the ever-widening scope of Health Visitors' functions has made inroads into the time of our present Staff and it has not been possible fully to implement the principles embodied in the Act.

Dental Treatment for Children under five and for Expectant and Nursing Mothers. Owing to our fortunate nearness to Wakefield, with its central Dental Clinic, no difficulty has been experienced in this area in arranging for urgent and necessary dental treatment. In schools, however, owing to the shortage of school dentists, there has been a lengthening of the gap between visits and a consequent and inevitable falling off in the high standards one has been accustomed to expect, and to receive, of the West Riding School Dental Service. This experience is one which has been general throughout the country, and is an unfortunate reflection of the economic pull tending to divert dental surgeons to the more lucrative sphere of private practice

under the National Health Service Act. Failing some material increase in their salary scale, one fears that the painstaking and excellent work built up over thirty years of constant endeavour will be completely nullified and that the high standards reached in our school population will rapidly fall again until they approximate to the deplorable level experienced in the 1920's. I am certain that the Act did not envisage circumstances such as these and that strong central action must needs be taken at an early date.

Nursing Homes. No Nursing Homes have been registered in this district and no action has been found necessary.

Child Life Protection. At the 5th July, 1948, there were no foster-mothers nursing for reward in the area. The Children Act, 1948, removes this service to the control of the Children's Officer, who undertakes the necessary measures for the care of boarded-out children.

HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.

Laboratory Facilities. The Laboratory at the County Hall, now under the aegis of the Medical Research Council, has continued to be most helpful and cooperative. It is impossible to imagine a more efficient or willing service and I should again like to acknowledge my gratitude to the staff for their most able and willing help at all times.

Ambulance Facilities. With the inception of the "free" ambulance service, there came a violent increase in demand. This resulted in chaotic conditions and in long delays. Many and bitter were the complaints received from patients and Councillors. All representations were followed up and every action that could help was discussed and agreed with the County Ambulance Officer, whose difficulties were great enough to daunt the stoutest heart. It is pleasing to be able to record, therefore, that matters are improving day by day, and that an increase in the number of ambulances available, together with a growing sense of responsibility and a gradual diminution of abuse of the service on the part of the general public, has led to a great reduction in the number of complaints received and to a greatly increased speeding up of the service. At the same time, it is necessary to point out that the ambulance service adequately run by the Urban District Council at the cost of a halfpenny rate is now substituted by one for which a sixpenny rate has to be levied. Thus, at twelve times

the cost, the community is being served and must appreciate its responsibilities in using the service as sparingly as possible. Only thus will the gigantic cost be reduced to something like reasonable proportions. The ambulance service is not intended as a public transport service and restraint and common sense on all sides are called for.

Home Nursing Provision. Five Home Nurses are now engaged in this important branch of domiciliary nursing ; two are provided with cars, which greatly increase their effectiveness and range of operation. The scope of Home Nursing is widening daily and is a reflection of the increasing difficulty of obtaining Institutional admission for chronic sick cases and the increasing longevity of the population. This latter factor means that many more people are living to an age at which long-standing illness caused by conditions such as stroke, and cancer, develop. The service is a most essential one and is, in my opinion, destined to extend and widen in scope in the immediate future.

Home Helps. This is an important ancillary service to the Home Nursing and Midwifery Services. The difficulty of obtaining the services of suitable Home Helps in the Rothwell area is one which has always occasioned some surprise, and one which still continues. At the time of writing only two Home Helps are available in the Rothwell area, out of a total of 14 working in the Health Division as a whole. It has been possible to borrow the services of some of the other 12 Helps from time to time, but many more are required in Rothwell and district if the needs are adequately to be met.

Midwifery Services. All Midwives practising in the area are now trained in Gas and Air Analgesia and are provided with the necessary apparatus. The Domiciliary Midwifery service has remained fully staffed throughout the year and no difficulties have arisen in relation thereto.

Clinic Provision in the Area. (a) At present there are five Welfare Clinics, but the building of new houses at Thorpe, together with the undoubted difficulty experienced by Thorpe mothers in travelling to either the Rothwell or Lofthouse Clinics, leads me to the conclusion that some effort will have to be made to provide a Welfare Clinic at Thorpe, and I intend to proceed on this assumption.

(b) Ante-Natal Clinic held twice weekly at the Central Clinic and fortnightly at the Methley Clinic.

(c) Post-Natal Clinic held weekly at the Central Clinic.

(d) Monthly Paediatric Clinic, staffed by a Consultant provided by the County Council.

(e) Ophthalmic Clinic twice monthly, staffed by an Ophthalmic Officer appointed by the West Riding County Council.

(f) Weekly Chest Clinic at the Rothwell Isolation Hospital, staffed by a Tuberculosis Officer of the County Council Staff.

(g) Ear, Nose and Throat Consultant Clinic.—Discontinued during the year, but which it is hoped to resume on the appointment of a Specialist from Leeds General Infirmary.

(h) Sunray Clinic held three times weekly at the Central Clinic.

Hospitals, Public and Voluntary. All cases of Infectious Disease requiring admission now go to Seacroft Hospital. This is a most satisfactory state of affairs and co-operation between the Hospital and this Department is free and close. Maternity Home provision is met by Hazlewood Castle or Walton Hall, whilst all abnormal cases are admitted to the Wakefield General Hospital (until July 5th the “ County General ”) or Leeds Maternity Hospital. Acute medical or surgical cases are admitted to Leeds General Infirmary, St. James’s, Leeds, Clayton Hospital, Wakefield, or Wakefield General Hospital. Orthopaedic or accident cases are admitted to Pinderfields Hospital, which continues to specialise in the treatment and rehabilitation of this type of case. Thus it will be seen that Rothwell is extremely fortunate in having such a wide range of Hospitals near at hand. The same happy state of affairs does not exist in relation to the hospitalisation of the chronic sick. Great and increasing difficulty has been experienced and many pitiful cases come to light from time to time.

WATER SUPPLY.

There was no change in the water supply during the year. The amounts obtained are as follows :—

Leeds Corporation	281,051,000	gallons
Morley Corporation	29,193,000	„
Wakefield Corporation	33,274,000	„
	<hr/>	
	343,518,000	
	<hr/>	

Of this quantity, 177,546,000 gallons were used for trade purposes and the balance of 165,972,000 gallons was allocated to domestic purposes and leakage respectively.

The average daily consumption per head for domestic purposes was 18.6 gallons, and for trade purposes, 19.9 gallons.

Throughout the year the water supply has been satisfactory in both quality and quantity. Fifteen bacteriological examinations and thirteen chemical analyses were made, samples being taken throughout the district. In all these cases, the water was reported to be satisfactory. The water supply to all parts of the area is without Plumbo-Solvent action.

The following is an example of the result obtained by analysis of the mains water of this district, and is typical of all the samples taken.

Bacteriological Test—

Number of organisms per 1 cc. after 3 days at	
20—22 degs. C. 	250
Number of organisms per 1cc. after 2 days at	
37 degs. C. 	3
Bacillus Coli Aerogenes—No. per 100 ccs.	Less than 1

This is a class 1 water.

Chemical Test—

	Parts per 100,000
Total Solids 	20.0
Chlorides 	1.6
Nitrites	none
Nitrates	A trace
Free Ammonia .. .. ..	.002
Albuminoid Ammonia .. ..	.002
Metals 	None
Total Hardness 	6.2
pH 	7.0

This water is of satisfactory organic quality.

The three stand-pipes previously mentioned are still in use. There are no wells in the district.

Drainage and Sewerage. This matter has been fully dealt with in the Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector and will be found at the end of this Report.

Rivers and Streams. No action necessary during the year.

Closet Accommodation. Public Cleansing. These matters are dealt with in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Shops and Offices. No statutory action has been found necessary, but routine inspection is carried out.

Camping Sites. See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Swimming Baths and Pools. No public baths in this area.

Bed Bug Disinfestation. This is carried out as a routine matter in relation to all occupants of new Council houses where necessary, and Gammexane and D.D.T. are used, with satisfactory results.

Factories and Workshops. Parts 1 and 8 of the Act fall within the scope of administration of this Authority. I append herewith a list of Home Workers and it will be noted that no special action has been necessary during the year. With respect to Part 1 of the Act, routine inspections have been carried out and again no special action has been necessary.

Table 13.

INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		In-spections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	10	—	—	—
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	64	10	—	—
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' premises)	1	—	—	—
TOTAL	75	10	—	—

Table 14.

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.
 (If defects are discovered on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more cases.)

	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Reme- died	Referred		
			To H.M. In- spector	By H.M. In- spector	
Want of Cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
Insufficient	—	—	—	1	—
Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective ..	—	—	—	4	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) ..	—	—	—	2	—
TOTAL	—	—	—	7	—

Table 15.
OUTWORK.

Nature of Work	No. of Out-workers in August list required by Sec. 110 (1)	Section 110		Section 111		
		No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in un-wholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel—						
Making, etc. ..	11	—	—	—	—	—
Cleaning and						
Washing ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Textile Weaving	1	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	12	—	—	—	—	—

HOUSING.

The provision of new housing accommodation does not yet permit of the representation of Clearance Areas. The only method available at the present time is the representation of individual unfit houses and this course is being adopted wherever possible. Unfortunately, this piecemeal method only touches the fringe of the problem, but it at least ensures that unfit houses are not reoccupied once they have been vacated. In all, nine houses were represented under Section 11, and in the case of an additional seven, undertakings from the owner or agent not to re-use the houses were accepted by the Council. During 1948 ten houses were vacated and the occupants re-housed in new Council houses.

It is not possible to say that any substantial easing of the housing position has been achieved during the year, and in this the difficulties of Rothwell are identical with those of other authorities throughout the country.

The following table is self-explanatory.

Table 16.

HOUSING ACTIVITIES DURING 1948.

No. of Houses Inspected			No. of Visits made		
Under Housing Act	Under Public Health Act	Total	Under Housing Act	Under Public Health Act	Total
271	428	699	201	667	868

Informal Notices		Statutory Notices	
No. issued	No. completed	No. issued	No. completed
404	262	170	129

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

For the second time I am glad to state that no case of Diphtheria occurred in the Urban District during 1948. This follows a similar satisfactory state of affairs in 1947. I think I may say that Diphtheria can now be considered to have been completely eradicated in its epidemic form. Individual cases may occur from time to time, but so long as we maintain the present rate of immunisation, it seems safe to predict that no longer will fever hospitals admit the many and serious, often fatal, cases of Diphtheria which occurred with such distressing frequency in past years.

Measles, with 100 cases, was not a serious factor, and no death occurred from this disease.

I am sorry to say that we are still awaiting permission to undertake mass immunisation against Whooping Cough. During the year, 210 cases were notified, of which 23 occurred in the under one age group. Children under the age of one year are particularly susceptible to broncho-pneumonia as a complication of Whooping Cough. Further than this, an attack at this tender age frequently results in permanent damage to the lung and leaves the child delicate and weakly and highly subject to chest illnesses in childhood and adult life. It is, therefore, with considerable anxiety that we look forward to the introduction of a safe and reliable prophylactic which can be given to the child at the same time as it is immunised against Diphtheria.

Scarlet Fever remains mild in type, although the incidence remains steady. During 1948, 84 cases were notified. There was no death. The practice of keeping Scarlet Fever cases at home wherever home conditions are thought by the family doctor to be satisfactory, has been maintained throughout the year, and there is no evidence to suggest that any increase in the number of cases has been attributable to this practice.

No case of Infantile Paralysis occurred during the year, and there was no death from any Infectious Disease with the exception of Tuberculosis.

The number of children immunised was satisfactorily maintained throughout the year. Immunisation is offered to all children when they attain the age of nine months and is carried out as a routine measure at all Welfare Clinics. No special "drive" was held, nor does such a measure appear to be necessary or desirable.

Table 17.

CASES OF NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN AGE GROUPS (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS).

Disease	Under 1 yr.		1—2 yrs.		2—3 yrs.		3—4 yrs.		4—5 yrs.		5—10 yrs.		10—15 yrs.		15—20 yrs.		20—35 yrs.		35—45 yrs.		45—65 yrs.		Over 65 yrs.		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Smallpox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ..	0	0	0	1	0	3	3	2	5	7	24	20	2	7	1	2	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	38	46
*Diphtheria ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia ..	1	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	1	0	1	1	4	3	2	2	3	12	15	15
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Paratyphoid Fever ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Erysipelas.. ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	2	5	6	2	0	9	11	11
Measles	4	2	9	6	5	10	6	3	5	7	24	28	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	54	56	56
Whooping Cough..	13	10	18	11	16	18	15	14	20	23	28	23	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	110	100	100
TOTALS.. ..	20	12	27	20	21	32	26	19	30	37	76	72	6	7	2	5	2	5	4	8	8	4	3	226	228	228

* Four cases of suspected Diphtheria notified and removed to Hospital, but proved “negative.”

Table 18.

SHOWING PARTICULARS OF CASES ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL DURING 1948.

Disease	Male	Female	Total
Scarlet Fever	16	20	36
Suspected Diphtheria	2	2	4*
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	1	2
Observation	2	1	3
Total	21	24	45

*All proved "Negative."

Table 19.

IMMUNISATION RECORDS, 1948.

	1 to 5 years	5 to 15 years	Total
Immunised in Clinics	336	0	336
" Booster " doses carried out in Clinics..	1	24	25
Immunised by own Doctors	22	1	23
" Booster " dose carried out by own Doctors	0	5	5

Percentage of Child Population Immunised as at 31st December, 1948 :—

Birth to five years approximately 75 per cent.
Five to fifteen years approximately 81 per cent.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During 1948, 22 pulmonary and 3 non-pulmonary new cases were notified. There were 9 respiratory and 2 non-respiratory deaths. This is a disappointing state of affairs and the downward trend noted in 1947 has not been maintained. My remarks concerning the shortage of Sanatorium beds holds with equal force to-day—indeed I feel that there is an even greater shortage. Thus we have amongst the community, numbers of highly infectious cases who are spreading amongst their families, friends and neighbours the active and virulent germ of the disease. From the point of view of the community it is essential that all infectious cases of tuberculosis should be segregated in such a manner that they are no longer sources of infection. The only way to achieve

this end is to expand greatly Sanatorium accommodation. Without this provision, it is impossible to view with optimism any possible diminution of incidence.

Tuberculosis is now the most important cause of death from Infectious Disease and the greatest single cause of death in the " middle " 15 to 45 age group.

Table 20.
TUBERCULOSIS.
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1948.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1—5 years.. ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5—10 years ..	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
15—20 years ..	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20—25 years ..	1	3	0	0	0	3	0	0
25—35 years ..	3	5	0	1	1	4	1	0
35—45 years ..	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
45—55 years ..	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55—65 years ..	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Over 65 years ..	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Totals ..	11	11	2	1	2	9	1	1

Note.—All the deaths shown above were notified cases of Tuberculosis.

Table 21.
RECORD OF CASES DURING 1948.

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
No. of cases on Register at beginning of year	63	48	26	23
No. of cases notified for first time during year	2	2	2	1
No. of cases added to Register otherwise than by notification	—	1	—	—
No. removed to other districts.. ..	5	1	—	—
No. cured.. .. .	12	3	3	3
No. died from disease	2	9	1	1
No. died from other causes	—	—	1	—
No. of cases on Register at end of year	55	47	23	20

INFESTATIONS.

The incidence of Scabies remains very slight, the number of cases and contacts treated during 1948 having fallen to 18.

Pediculosis, apart from the incidence of nits in the cases of some school children, was singularly absent and no action was necessary during the year for the cleansing of Verminous Persons. In the case of school children, the infestations were adequately dealt with by the use of lethane oil under the supervision of the school nurse.

Table 22.
SCABIES TREATMENT.

	1948		1947		1946	
	Scabies cases treated	Contacts treated	Scabies cases treated	Contacts treated	Scabies cases treated	Contacts treated
Men	3	0	8	1	15	6
Women	5	2	5	6	23	15
Children (under 16 yrs.)	6	2	24	4	69	6
Totals	14	4	36	11	107	27

In concluding this Report, I should again like to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and Maternity and Child Welfare Committees. As usual they have displayed sympathy and understanding, and have always done their best to meet my point of view on any matter which has come up for consideration. To Mr. Wilson and the Staff of the Health Department I must express, once again, my appreciation of the promptitude and efficiency with which they have carried out every investigation and their readiness to furnish reports on every matter which has needed attention.

I remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

A. L. TAYLOR,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT

for the Year 1948.

*Health Department,
Civic Buildings,
Rothwell.*

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Rothwell Urban District Council.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege and pleasure to again be permitted to present for your consideration and approval my Annual Report for the year 1948.

On this, the seventeenth occasion on which I have presented an Annual Report to you, I hope to be able to summarise for your information the events of the year in a topical manner.

HOUSING.

This important subject still claims priority, and is still the most essential unit, and one which is, unfortunately, in extremely short supply.

The efforts of the Council through their Building and Housing Departments have been extremely commendable, limited as they are by government control, but it seems to me that all we, and they, do does no more than touch the fringe of the problem. As a matter of fact I find on examination of the applications for Council houses that the number has risen from 1,308 in 1947 to 1,710 in 1948.

I sometimes think that the general public do not realise how really serious the shortage of houses is. We get from time to time people who come saying that they want a new Council house on this site or that, and one or two applicants to my knowledge have refused houses just because it was not the house of their particular choice. The Council's answer to this is, as is proper, that they are deleted from the list of applicants altogether.

To balance this there are, however, many applicants who would be content with any house, provided it had four walls, a roof and a window or two, and it has been my unpleasant task to advise would-be tenants of condemned houses that they cannot exchange their present undesirable conditions for others, which, in our opinion, are still less desirable.

This very shortage of new houses is, to a large extent, cramping the style and efforts of the Department in our normal housing work. As the members of the Council are well aware, when a house falls below a particular standard, it should be classed as unrepairable and become the subject of a Demolition Order, but the priority list for condemned houses, for which we have a fifteen per cent. allocation from new houses built, is so small that if a house is condemned, it means that the tenant is destined to wait two years at least before there is much chance of a new house, during which time the owners, knowing that a Demolition Order is operative, are loath to do any repairs and, indeed, cannot be compelled so to do, unless the defects are such as would constitute a nuisance.

Knowing full well that many of the houses in this area fall within the afore-mentioned category, we have to hold our hands and, in the absence of direct complaints, put off the inspection of houses for the moment. If complaints are made, we have no course but to inspect the house and deal with it on its merits or demerits. Sometimes by persuasion we can get the owners to carry out some repairs which will prolong the life of the aged and decrepit domiciles for a further period.

Occasionally, owners, as the result of a Time and Place Notice, make offers to the Council which are accepted, and so we rejuvenate and prolong the life of these miserable dwellings, which should long ago have been permitted to fall into ruins.

The picture is still not a pleasant one. Our points scheme acts as a sieve to separate, not the grain from the chaff, but the grain into different sizes, the largest families, as represented by the largest grains, coming naturally into the first list.

Most of the lucky occupants of the new houses realise their good fortune and do their best to show their appreciation by maintenance of the houses and the adjoining gardens, but there are a proportion who apparently do their utmost from the first day of their occupation to reduce the modern, desirable residence into an equal of the slum or hovel that they have left. I am of the opinion, and it is one with which I am sure no socially minded person will disagree, that the houses built at the cost of the rates and the general exchequer should be available for those people whose need is the greatest, regardless of the fact of whether they can pay for them, or whether they are capable of looking after them properly, but it seems wrong that persons without any knowledge, or at least any experience, of running a modern house, should be shipped forthwith into one of the latest type, without any previous training, and I have suggested to the Council through their Housing Committee previously, and will again suggest for your attention, that there should be a group or number of houses belonging to the 1926 scheme, to which all tenants (with perhaps one or two small exceptions) should be drafted. After they have, in the opinion of the Housing Manager, shown their worth as tenants and house-keepers, they should be listed for transference to new houses as they become available, and the "Black Row" houses would then be ready to receive other prospective tenants whose capabilities were as yet unknown.

I know there would be objections, but if it was made a condition it would, after the first few grumblings, settle down as the normal way, and provided it was applied generally there could be no real objections. I have been in houses which have been occupied not longer than two or three months, and been appalled to find the conditions into which the houses had fallen, and if the individual members of the Council could see such cases, I am sure they would agree on the necessity for a step similar to the one I have suggested. Even if the Council were to pay the cost or provide the labour for the extra removal necessitated, there would I think, be a saving all round.

It is understandable that people who have never had the opportunity of living in a good house with modern and up-to-date conveniences should not be able to use them, and they could be trained, guided and given the opportunity to qualify in houses which, although perfectly fit for habitation, have lost in the years of their life some of the shine and polish which is on the new ones.

One case which was discovered in our housing investigations was that of a man, wife and child, the relatives of the occupiers of an Eventide Hostel, who, in return for doing the chores of the

house, were permitted to live in a wash-house. The family concerned were moved to a Council house and the "kindly" relations warned of the seriousness of such a practice. In another case a soldier and his foreign bride and child were found living in the coachman's quarters of a disused coach house. Such conditions could not be tolerated, and although one had a certain amount of sympathy with the persons concerned, they had no title to a Council house and the case was cleared up when they themselves found other accommodation.

Apart from the re-housing side, our work of inspection continues, and although the number of houses visited for the first time has fallen from last year, as reference to the table at the back of the Report will show, it will be noted that the number of re-inspections has increased, and the two taken together show that the number of housing visits are very much the same.

The inspections are, of course, classified according to the Notices served, and houses about which a housing complaint is made are classified as Public Health inspections or re-inspections, if Notices under that Statute have been served. The figures for such are given in the same table.

The raising of the Building Licence Exemption from £10 to £100 has done much to expedite repairs of the smaller type and we find in the Department that Notices served are completed more quickly and with less fuss, although it is somewhat remarkable that we have served more Statutory Notices, and also have in one or two cases had to execute the work in default and take Court proceedings in connection therewith. It is perhaps worthy of comment that in all the proceedings taken the results were in the Council's favour.

Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, had to be applied to nine houses which, due to mineral subsidence in certain cases, and severe old age and decrepitude in the others, became so dangerous to the occupants that priority within the fifteen per cent. allocation had to be given.

The erection of houses by the Council was maintained as fully as possible, although some hold-up was experienced due to adverse mineral reports on sites allocated for house building, and in 1948, 79 such houses were built by this Authority.

Some Licences were issued for private house building, and in all, 10 such houses were completed.

The following Statutory action under the Housing Act, 1936, was taken :—

Number of Legal Notices (Housing) served under			
Sec. 9 of the Housing Act, 1936	..	..	22
Number of the above Notices complied with	..		9
Number of Legal Notices (Public Health) served			170
Number of the above Notices complied with	..		129
Number of houses represented under Sec. 11 of			
the Housing Act, 1936	..	..	..
Undertakings accepted not to re-use	..	..	7
Number vacated during 1948	..	..	10

NUISANCES.

A total of 428 Nuisances were reported or found on inspection during 1948, which, together with 175 not completed in 1947, gave a total of 603 to be dealt with in the year under review. Of this total 437 were actually abated and 166 were in hand at the end of 1948. To deal with this section of work, 1,095 inspections were made, and 404 Informal and 170 Statutory Notices were issued. 262 Informal and 129 Statutory Notices were completed in 1948, the balance being carried forward to 1949.

It was necessary to institute legal proceedings in five cases in order to secure compliance with our requests.

As is customary, the majority of the complaints were small, and concerned domestic drain stoppages and so on, but in view of the decrepit state of many houses and the impossibility of dealing with them under the Housing Acts, recourse was made to Public Health procedure, with the results shown.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

The licensed camping ground for the Rothwell Area, that is the feast ground at Rothwell, has been used spasmodically and without nuisance or complaint during 1948.

Two other caravans were discovered exceeding the stay which is permitted by law, and licences for a limited period were granted. These licences were still in force at the end of 1948.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The service has been maintained throughout the year without any serious complaint, although we do receive the odd message that a particular ashbin or ashpit has been missed, and would we attend to it forthwith.

These complaints are always investigated, as it is only by checking up and correcting the defects or omissions as they are reported that the service is kept to what, I think we can claim with modesty, is a first class service.

I am happy to be able to tell you that more than half of the complaints made were proved on investigation to be unfounded, and often the work had been done unnoticed, and the conclusion was arrived at, therefore, that the men had not been.

There are, however, a number of privy ashpits serving property of such age that conversion is not economically possible, which are so constructed that they become unusable in a very short time, and although the ashpit is virtually empty, it requires attention more frequently than the normal emptying round.

These are a problem and we try to keep everyone happy by making extra emptyings wherever possible. The obvious solution for this is, of course, to remove the houses which they serve and substitute new houses with modern conveniences, but this under present conditions is impracticable.

We still have five motor vehicles for normal refuse collection ; four of 7 cubic yard and one of 10 cubic yard capacity. Four vehicles can normally cover the district, but the extra vehicle provides cover for breakdowns and deals with the extra jobs which from time to time arise. A new machine was ordered in 1948 but had not been delivered at the end of the year.

Refuse is still disposed of by controlled tipping, three main tips being in general use, and receiving approximately 90% of the refuse. The other 10% goes to farmers and market gardeners on request, the use being for filling up low lying land or to sort to provide fuel for their sheds and green-houses.

Some assistance was given to our Parks Department and a convenient tip provided in order to raise low lying land in the Park which was in the course of development for a bowling green. For a time all the Rothwell tipping was concentrated on this point and the result was, after soiling over, a new piece of terrain which did not before exist. One feels a sense of satisfaction when the household debris can be used for such a satisfactory purpose.

We have not this year had any trouble from tatters. Whether this is due to the prosecutions taken in previous years, or whether the tatters have found a more lucrative employment, I do not know, but we are glad to be free from them.

Tipping is on the controlled system as far as it is practicable or economic to carry this out, and very little complaint arises, the few rats which are noticed being poisoned when found.

At two of the tips infestations of crickets have occurred, and during 1948 were the worst I think ever known. Whether it was the result of fresh infestations brought with the refuse, or whether the few which survived the winter of 1947-48 bred so rapidly as to provide a major infestation, I am not in a position to say, but during the warm months of July and August the infestation was so intense as to cause some concern, complaints of crickets being received from houses in the adjacent parts of the district, all of which were naturally blamed on the infestation from the tips. Treatment is somewhat difficult in view of the moving face of the tip, but we applied proprietary liquids with varying success. I am still inclined to think that the old method of treatment with a fifty-fifty mixture of paraffin and creosote is the best and future infestations will be dealt with in this way. The nuisance and the complaints subsided of course with the colder weather, and I am hopeful that the summer of 1949 will not bring about such a severe infestation.

Although salvage in general still continues, the householders in the area, in common, I think, with those in many other parts of the country, are becoming less salvage-minded, and the paper content of the refuse is increasing to a large extent.

We still continue to do a certain amount of salvage work, although there is, in spite of general appeals and propaganda, very little incentive displayed on the part of the householders, and I think in the course of another year, salvage will be almost non-existent.

The general collection of food scraps from communal bins provides the biggest single source of complaint, as these bins are at the best a doubtful hygienic facility. To clean them and sterilise them as often as would be desirable from a health point of view would make the scheme uneconomic, and I am not sure that the direction which was served on us, in common with four or five areas adjacent to a processing district, was a very fair one. If food scraps were so urgently needed, every district in the country should be under a similar direction, and processing plants arranged to deal with the food scraps collected. If the risk from foot and mouth disease resulting from using and feeding raw kitchen waste was so immense as was stated by the disciples of the Ministry at the inauguration of the scheme, why are the districts which are not under direction not blighted with foot and mouth disease? At the time of writing this report, mid-1949,

there is a general objection being made on the part of the five directed Authorities in this part of the world, and I am hopeful that the direction will shortly be removed.

The bins for food scraps are not used as they were in war-time, and if they are not withdrawn I think they will soon become unused by the house-holders. The amount collected has fallen from 104 tons in 1947 to 75 tons in 1948. Waste paper has, strangely enough, increased, although it is not from the house collections which are made, but from the amount which is collected from the shops and stores.

During the summer I was concerned to receive a complaint from the area to which we send our pig food for processing, to the effect that our workmen were stealing the processed pig food. I repudiated this, but the Authority in their wisdom saw fit to prosecute. The worthy stipendiary, however, after hearing all the evidence, acquitted your employee. It is eminently satisfactory to have the integrity of workmen vindicated in this manner, as they are, in the course of their several tasks, in a position to "acquire" many things, and it is essential that they should be trustworthy.

The payment of a bonus still continues and during 1948 a total of £64 14s. 3d. was divided amongst the workmen.

We have so far as possible maintained the usual cycle of emptying of dustbins every seven days and the ashpits every twenty-one days, and although this has not always been possible, I think that the service has been at least the equal, if not better, than many areas of which I have knowledge.

During the course of the year 5,282 motor loads of refuse were collected and tipped. I do not attempt to estimate the weight as in the absence of weigh-bridges, where every load can be weighed, it is only possible to take occasional test weighings and calculations from this source are, in my opinion, generally erroneous and misleading.

The cesspool and gully emptying machine which the Department still possesses has worked satisfactorily in spite of its age, and in addition to emptying the 56 cesspools in the area cleans street gullies when not otherwise employed. 44 of the cesspools are private and emptied as a rate charge, the balance of 12 at trade premises being emptied at the cost of the owners.

The amount of time spent on cesspool emptying was approximately the same as last year, trade cesspools increasing as private ones decreased, but nearly double the amount of gullies, 909 against 510 in 1947, were cleaned.

The rest of the machine's time was spent on sewer and drain cleansing, the emptying of domestic pails and other miscellaneous jobs.

The work of maintaining all the Council's vehicles has become too much for one man and we have obtained an apprentice who is a help to the mechanic, and whose usefulness will increase with the years.

The converted stables which we occupy as a garage and, indeed, as a cleansing depot, are far from satisfactory, and although plans for an up-to-date, comprehensive Council Depot are in course of preparation, that is as far as the matter has gone at the moment, and meantime the staff have to work under conditions which are far from desirable and which arouse the sympathies of everyone who sees them. I look forward to the day, unfortunately I am afraid far distant, when we can have an up-to-date depot which will be at once the pride and inspiration of the staff who use it.

The table appended shows the weights and values of the materials salvaged during this year.

Table Showing Weight and Value of Materials Salvaged

<i>Material.</i>	<i>Weight.</i>					<i>Income.</i>		
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>		<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Baled Paper	62	0	2	0	..	457	5	4
Textiles	2	1	2	0	..	47	10	8
Food Scraps	75	13	2	0	..	96	5	11
Bones		5	2	0	..		15	8
Bottles and Jars ..	1242 doz.	and	4	..	..	41	12	11
Total ..						£643	10	6

SEWERS AND DRAINS.

The amount of new drains laid is proportional to the new buildings erected, and a fair amount of time has been spent on Council sites inspecting and testing drains and sewers in connection therewith. New drainage work at existing properties was required in 22 cases and the drains of 89 new houses were inspected and passed.

Two serious instances of flooding have occurred from blockages in the main sewer, in January and April of this year, both of which were cleared, but some little damage and a lot of inconvenience was caused in each case.

The trunk sewer which runs through the Park, and which is one of my constant sources of anxiety, has still continued to function, albeit in a very unsatisfactory manner, during the year. Applications to the Ministry are now in hand, and I may be perhaps permitted to anticipate a future report and tell you that some of the preparatory contracts in connection with the re-laying have been let. Stoppages have occurred in this length with such frequency that I have had the affected portion fenced off (from a Park point of view it was unusable anyway, being so often flooded with sewage) and the excavations which were made from time to time have not been filled in. This means that future stoppages can be removed more expeditiously and less sewage therefore floods the land and gains access to the adjoining stream.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

There are within the district 6,464 water closets and 18 waste water closets which provide a water carriage system for a large proportion of the 6,961 houses in the area. There are also 82 pail closets which serve houses of an old type which do not warrant conversion, or where conversion is impracticable owing to the absence of a sewer, and there are a number of privies and their necessary corollary, privy ashpits. A survey has recently been undertaken, and every privy listed, so that the actual details may be known correctly, and according to it there are 493 houses served by 354 privies and 215 privy ashpits, and 19 houses with 15 dry ashpits.

During the year 14 more privies were converted to water closets, the privies abolished and dustbins provided. 16 waste water closets were also converted to the more modern wash down water closets and a hygienic improvement secured. The work of conversion will continue so long as there are privies left which can by any stretch of ingenuity be converted, but it is true to say that only the apparently inconvertibles, or those attached to houses where expenditure in this direction would be impracticable now remain.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

The appended table gives the details of the farms and purveyors of milk in this area.

During the year 64 visits of inspection were made to various premises listed under this heading, but no defects worthy of comment were found.

No. of farms producing milk (1 of which is " Accredited ") ..	29
No. of Retail Purveyors of Milk	41
No. of Premises Registered as Dairies	37
No. of Licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Order ..	18

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION AND CONTROL.

Routine examinations of carcasses in slaughter-houses are not required as regional slaughtering still continues and the meat sold in this district is slaughtered outside the area. There are occasional pigs slaughtered privately which are the subject of inspection and 7 of those killed were inspected. In addition, 15 inspections were made at shops, stores and food depots, and 593 pounds of various types of food were condemned and destroyed or passed for animal feeding, according to their particular state. Classification of the food is given below.

Tinned Food ..	..	..	..	107 lbs.
Porridge Oats ..	..	..	..	100 lbs.
Barley Flake ..	..	..	..	360 lbs.
Bacon and Ham ..	..	..	..	26 lbs.

48 inspections were also made of premises where food is stored, prepared or sold.

During the year we have been able to assist the School Canteen Authorities by the inspection and classification of food, raw and prepared, which have been the subject of complaint by the canteen staff or, as more frequently occurs, by the staff at the receiving end of the school meals service. In one or two cases it was necessary to use a lot of tact and diplomacy, as the feelings which prompted the complaints were not always concerned with the food itself. Our findings and decisions were, however, never queried and the advice we were able to give often cleared up what might have been a storm in a teacup.

WATER SAMPLING.

All the water used for human consumption or in connection with food preparation is obtained from public supplies, and although it is normal practice to check the quality of these supplies at the points of production and distribution, this Authority in addition carries out routine sampling, both bacteriological and chemical of the water as it arrives at the consumer's tap in this area.

13 chemical and 15 bacteriological samples were taken in this way and in every case were classified as being fit for human consumption.

PETROLEUM.

During 1948, 41 licences were issued to store a total amount of 2,162,700 gallons of petrol, 35 of these being renewals of existing licences and the others for newly erected premises.

The introduction of red petrol for trade purposes and white for private purposes has made it necessary in several cases for additional tanks to be installed, and these were in every case constructed to the requirements of this Council, the tanks subjected to a pressure test after installation, and the pipe lines to a petrol test before the licence was issued.

Shortly after the introduction of red and white petrol, it came to my knowledge that a certain concern in this area was storing petrol in unauthorised containers and in excess of the licence. Together with the Inspector of the Ministry of Fuel and Power and the Police, investigations were made, samples taken and the offender eventually convicted at Court and fined 100 guineas and costs. The reason for this unauthorised storage was, when the first load of red petrol was delivered, all the remaining white, which then was particularly valuable, was pumped into miscellaneous containers with a view to it being used in the private cars of the concern involved. Upon conviction the petrol was confiscated and transferred to the tanks of this Authority by order of the Court.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION.

It is the custom in this area for all houses belonging to the Council to be inspected on becoming vacant, and for the furniture and effects of incoming tenants likewise to be inspected. If these are found to be infested by bed bugs the appropriate treatment is carried out before the new tenancy is effected. This work, together with investigations at private houses, occasioned 230 visits in the twelve months. The methods of treatment by Gammexane and D.D.T. have now become more or less standard, the results being uniformly good. There seems to be no doubt now after some years of experience that both Gammexane and D.D.T. are easier and less noxious to apply, and more efficacious and lasting in their results, than the substances used previously, and the protracted lethal effect that these powders have, is having its effect in reducing the amount of infestations. Also such insecticides can be procured privately and used non-technically with good results, and it is possible that minor cases of infestations are dealt with by the house-holder without our knowledge.

Disinfection in the case of infectious diseases is now almost a thing of the past. Firstly the incidence of infectious disease has fallen considerably, and secondly it is not customary to disinfect the premises after every case of removal to hospital. Disinfection of empty houses is carried out as a matter of routine, and also the disinfection of rooms after the death of inmates who have died from some condition which makes this process desirable.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

I have during 1948 represented the Council upon the West Riding Regional Smoke Abatement Committee, and also upon the Yorkshire Division of the National Smoke Abatement Society. Both Societies have for their object the purification of the atmosphere.

Routine smoke abatement observations are not yet taken, and as a matter of fact only one observation was taken during the course of the year.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The four public conveniences situate in Rothwell, Carlton, Oulton and Methley have been maintained in an efficient state, and only slight damage has occurred.

MORTUARIES.

The three mortuaries which the Council possess at Rothwell, Stourton and Methley have been maintained in a satisfactory state throughout the year. No complaints have been received, but a suggestion that a porch and extra door should be provided at the Rothwell mortuary to provide more light and ventilation and absolute privacy during the carrying out of post-mortems was accepted by the Council, and this extra was constructed and found to be of benefit. An electric inspection hand lamp for detailed examinations during post-mortems was also provided.

RATS.

258 inspections were made under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, and at 29 premises, including our own tips, poison bait was laid with varying results. The amount of infestation in this area is remarkably small, and although we do deal with such complaints as received and follow up evidence of infestation which we find, I feel sure that the rat population of this area is at an almost irreducible minimum. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Infestation Control Division, assists in various ways, and during the year Mr. Idle and myself attended refresher courses on rodent control.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

For many years this Authority have provided and maintained an ambulance for the conveyance to hospital and institution those people who were unfortunately so incapacitated as to need its services, and through the years this ambulance which, although owned by the Council was driven and garaged by a private individual, has given good and faithful service and undoubtedly met the needs of the public. The National Assistance Act, 1948, provided for the inauguration of ambulance services of the County Councils, and the West Riding County Council, in fulfilment of their obligations have provided a service over the whole of the area, and in doing so have absorbed the local ambulances.

The actual take-over occurred on the 1st October, 1947, and from that day a free service was provided and the service operated in theory by the County Council, although the individual absorption which was bound to take some time did not affect us until 1949, and from the date of take-over up to the end of 1948 we provided the same service as agents for and at the cost of the County Council.

The new service will undoubtedly be more resplendent and most certainly more costly, but it will have to go a long way to be more efficient than the old service which this Council for so many years provided and for which they can be justifiably proud.

PUBLIC BURIALS.

Another phase of National Assistance has been to place upon District Councils the responsibility for the disposal of those unfortunate persons who die within the district and for whom no provisions are made or are likely to be made for their effectual disposal. This at first glance appeared to be likely to affect us from the angle of the odd itinerant who expired while within the confines of the area, but as there is a large Institution within this area, and also a mental home, it soon became apparent that we should have the duty of disposing of such of their deceased inmates who had no means to provide for their disposal. This seemed to me wrong and inconsistent. The maintenance, clothing and feeding of an inmate was apparently the duty of the Hospital Board up to the moment that he left this mortal coil, after which he became our responsibility. I queried this, but my appeals to a higher Authority produced no results. It was our responsibility and provisions were accordingly made. Tenders for the work were invited and a contractor appointed, and the eight cases

which occurred in 1948 were disposed of in a seemly manner. A later instruction to the Hospital Boards has indicated that although it may legally be our function to provide for the burial of such cases, the hospital authorities themselves have that power, and so we revert to the position of being responsible for the odd case occurring within our district, but outside the confines of hospitals and institutions.

PUBLICITY.

From time to time I have been invited to lecture to schools, lecture clubs and other organisations, and this affords me great satisfaction, my subject being naturally concerned with health subjects and health propaganda. This work, often done "after hours," is, I think, particularly useful, as it shows the general public the whys and wherefores of many of the things we do, and gives them a better appreciation of and, therefore, a greater degree of co-operation in our work. I feel that publicity of this nature particularly to children, could be well extended, and I personally would be glad to have the opportunity of preparing and delivering lectures to all the schools on health matters as a matter of routine.

STATISTICAL RECORD.

As a culmination of this diatribe I beg to append in statistical form the bald record of what the Department has done during the year. Figures and numbers are at the best of times dry things, but they do, I think, provide a fitting climax to the discourse on the events of the year.

INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

Inspections under Housing Acts	..	..	271
Inspections under Public Health Acts	..	..	428
Reinspections under Housing Acts	..	..	201
Reinspections under Public Health Acts	..	..	667
Tents, Vans and Sheds	..	..	12
Inspections for Vermin	..	..	230
Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act	..	..	258
Infectious Diseases Investigation—			
Scarlet Fever	..	..	61
Suspected Diphtheria	..	..	4
Other	..	..	3
Food and Drugs Act, 1938	..	..	86
Dairies and Cowsheds	..	..	64
Water Samples taken	..	..	26
Factories and Workshops	..	..	10
Smoke Abatement	..	..	1
District Ambulance	..	..	11
Petroleum Storage	..	..	27
Mortuaries	..	..	16
Sewer and Drainage Inspections	..	..	279
Cesspools and Septic Tanks	..	..	3
Public Cleansing Service	..	..	319
Plant Maintenance	..	..	13
Public Conveniences	..	..	239
Sanitary Conversions	..	..	391
Floods	..	..	3

 3,624

WORKS CARRIED OUT.

Drains cleared from obstruction	..	..	334
Sink waste pipes cleared	..	..	4
Defective dustbins renewed	..	..	247
Defective dustbins supplied in default	..	..	4
Roofs repaired	..	..	62
Chimney stacks repaired	..	..	11
Eaves gutters repaired or renewed	..	..	36
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	..	..	14
External walls repaired or repointed	..	..	28
Water closets repaired	..	..	42
Drains repaired or renewed	..	..	22
Water services repaired or renewed	..	..	9
Internal walls repaired or replastered	..	..	36
Ceilings replastered	..	..	11
Windows repaired or renewed	..	..	25
Doors repaired or renewed	..	..	12
Floors repaired or renewed	..	..	12
Fireplaces repaired or renewed	..	..	14
Sinks renewed	..	..	4
Sink waste pipes renewed, refitted or repaired	..	..	11
Set pots renewed	..	..	8
Food stores altered or repaired	..	..	2
Sanitary conversions	..	..	30
Dry ashpits abolished	..	..	4
Dustbins provided in lieu of ashpits	..	..	11
Privy Middens and Ashpits repaired	..	..	5

STAFF.

Mr. Idle is still with me as my very efficient deputy and one who can be relied on to take a load off my shoulders at any particular time.

The temporary clerk was replaced by a permanent one in January of this year in the person of Miss Flockton, and although this is her first post her enthusiasm and diligence compensate for any lack of experience.

A pupil who was here in 1947 for two days per week was appointed to the staff as an unqualified clerical assistant with facilities for studying for and obtaining his Royal Sanitary Institute Certificate, and in October of the year another pupil was given the opportunity of obtaining practical experience two days per week.

These pupils, being anxious to learn, very quickly become useful in carrying out minor inspections for the Department, and in that way relieve the normal inspectors of many minor duties and at the same time acquire valuable experience for themselves.

In bringing this, my 17th Report, to a conclusion, I would again express my thanks to all the members of my staff, and the senior officers of the Council, in particular the Medical Officer of Health and the Clerk of the Council for their help and advice, and to the members of the Health Committee and the Council for their understanding and appreciation of my views, which are not always in agreement with theirs, and for their sustained support of my actions.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

THOS. WILSON.

